

English I Pre- Test Student Writing Samples
Sample 1

It's easy in a world mesmerized by tech gadgets and global commerce to forget about our natural world and the sensitive relationship we have with it. It's as if we disregard the lessons we learned in school—about science, about climate change, about the ecosystem and the delicate balance between the natural world and humans. We are fortunate that there are those who don't allow us to forget—who don't allow us to keep moving forward without thinking about our environment and the impact we are having upon it, but who instead, pave the way to protect and conserve our world. People like Theodore Roosevelt, Stephen Mather, Gifford Pinchot have done just that—they've worked to preserve natural parks and to provide ways for humans to enjoy and study the world around them (DeAngelis). As a result of their work, more and more students today are following their lead; one of those students is Ben Clark, a 14-year-old Biodiversity Youth Ambassador.

Like Roosevelt, Mather, and Pinchot, Ben Clark shares a deep passion and desire to connect people with their environment. No, he hasn't established any National Park Services or carved any laws or funding to support scientific studies, but Ben has the same innovative passion to make sure people better understand nature. As a Biodiversity Youth Ambassador, Ben has "organized a school bioblitz to promote youth involvement in biodiversity. . . . there are now 250 students waiting for the second annual school bioblitz" (Plumb). His desire and passion to build understanding motivated him to do more than just study nature. Now, he's providing opportunities for others learn and value nature.

Despite Ben's youth, his understanding of biodiversity is more complex and forwardthinking than past environmental leaders. Yes, Roosevelt created the first national wildlife refuge and formed the U.S. Forest Service, Pinchot expanded state parks, and Mather worked to foster people's enjoyment of nature (DeAngelis), but Ben's understanding of the unique relationship man has with the ecosystem drives his work as an ambassador. Ben believes that we have to get the next generation involved and excited about learning biodiversity if we ever hope to "sustain the environment" and "control what we're doing" (Plumb). For Ben, learning and understanding is at the heart of all he does and hopes to do—hence, the creation of the school bioblitz.

The impact the past leaders have had on our world has been incredible, but I wonder—what will Ben have? He's only beginning. We often think one person can't make a difference—especially a young person. Yet, Ben Clark is proving that idea wrong. What will the ripple effects be when that second bioblitz transpires and 250 young minds discover biodiversity? I can't wait to see. We need to think about more than our laptops, our iPhones, our apps and snapchats—we need to think about how we are going to sustain our world and improve the quality of human life beyond the metal. Ben is making a difference—a positive one. Will we?

Organization	Content Development	Conventions
4	4	2

Notes

- **Organization—focus strongly maintained; variety of transitional strategies; effective introduction and conclusion; logical progression; syntactic variety; smoothly and effectively**

blends argumentative (use of questions and claims) and expository (clear examples) genres in a manner that is purposeful

- **Development—comprehensive support is integrated, relevant, and specific; uses precise language appropriate for audience and purpose; effectively appeals to audience; uses relevant and sufficient text support with accuracy; correctly cites sources**

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Sample 2

In Both the story “Ben Clark, Biodiversity Youth Ambassador” and “Foundation Builders” you can tell they are many similarities as they are differences. The main idea I saw from both articles is there passion to help national monuments and stabilize the destructive forces that are harming the earth's non-renewable beauty. On the other hand both articles show tremendous differences which is understandable and should not go unnoticed.

The similarities both start at caring about the environment. In both articles people find a way to help nature grow. With Theodore Roosevelt founding Boone and Crockett Club which promoted the hunting of game animals and the protection of their habits to Ben Clark inspiring next generations to care about the environment. Both of these admirable achievements which just trying to get their voice out there and inspiring future generations to do the same thing is truly inspirational.

Like I said earlier they both have differences. In the article “Foundation Builders” are people who were known and were important to the history of our country and it overlooks all the smaller stories like “Ben Clark, Biodiversity Youth Ambassador” which is helping future generations just as much as “Foundation Builders” but is less likely to be known because it was not as “news worthy” as other topics but that is another rant completely. Ben Clark's story mainly focuses on one event unlike “Founding Fathers” which discusses more events and stories and does not go into much depth about it. The story about Ben Clark is closer to being from this era than the other stories.

Both stories are quaint in their own way. They both show a responsibility for the future of wildlife and monuments. Even though they have many differences they are still vastly similar and I'm proud that these magnificent people have stood up for future generations to help the environment which shows that there is still some hope left in this dimly lit corporation based world.

Organization	Content Development	Conventions
3	3	1

Notes

- **Organization**—main idea is clear and maintained; adequate transitional strategies; adequate introduction and appealing conclusion; adequate progression of ideas (easy to follow); attempt at blending argumentative and expository through claims and relevant examples
- **Development**—adequate support for controlling idea that is integrated and relevant; mix of precise and general language; adequately appeals to audience; makes adequate use of available resources and correctly cites sources
- **Conventions**—wide range of errors, especially spelling and sentence structure

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Sample 3

Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, Stephen T. Mather, and Ben Clark are all people who have helped the environment in their own ways. It's arguable to say who did the most to improve the environment. Comparing them with similarities and differences of how they helped the environment will be mentioned. The "Foundation Builders" passage has 3 men that improved the environment while "Ben Clark, Biodiversity Youth Ambassador" has only Ben Clark

The men in "Foundation Builders" helped the environment by U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service. Theodore Roosevelt made many accomplishments such as the Boone and Crockett Club, help saving Yellowstone, created first national wildlife refuge in Florida, formed the U.S. Forest Service, and signed the Antiquities Act. Gifford Pinchot did many things to help by founding the Society of American Foresters, providing financial support for a forestry school, served as chief of the Forest Service and finally, he ran as governor of Pennsylvania where he expanded state parks. Lastly on the passage "Foundation Builders" is Stephen T. Mather. He helped Congress to create the Nation Park Service, helped recruit professionals to the parks, and also built hotels, campgrounds, and concessions to the parks.

Ben Clark was into Biodiversity. He got interested when he saw a damselfly not in native land. He was a young ambassador and was selected by NPS-NGS Bio Blitzes. He helped the environment by biodiversity festival featuring exhibits on the biodiversity of 38 national parks and furthered biodiversity awareness. He was award the "Everyday Young Hero" by Youth Service America.

The similarities of all the people listed are them improving or helping the environment and bringing awareness. The differences the people have are the timelines, the men in "Foundation Builders" are from the late 1800's to early 1900's while Ben Clark is from 2000's. Age is also different with Clark be a kid and others men. Final difference is the men founding organizations or businesses to help the environment while Clark can't since he's only a kid.

This was a comparison of the men that helped the environment. The timelines are far apart and the passages encourage others to help improve or help the environment of all ages.

Organization	Content Development	Conventions
2	3 (low)	2

Notes

- **Organization**—controlling idea somewhat unclear; inconsistent use of transitional strategies; weak introduction and conclusion; adequate progression of ideas; little or no evidence of blending genres (heavily expository)
- **Development**—adequate support is relevant; mix of precise and general language; lacking in sensory and figurative language; adequately appeals to audience; makes adequate use of resources with occasional citation

English I Pre- Test Student Writing Samples
Sample 4

Ben Clark, Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, and Stephen T. Mather's ideas both differ and they are similar. They want to help the environment in many ways. The four men just have different ways.

Theodore Roosevelt formed first ever, national wildlife refuge in Florida in 1903. He also formed the U.S. Forest service in 1905 to protect nature. He signed an act called the Antiquities Act of 1906 to protect artifacts and historic ruins from destruction. It also allowed him, as the president, to create national monuments. Throughout his presidency he created 5 national parks, 18 national monuments, nearly 60 wildlife and bird refuges and over 100 million acres of national forests. Theodore Roosevelt also made sure that the Grand Canyon was protected and not "improved" on because "The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it".

Gifford Pinchot was a close friend of Theodore's. He also, himself, founded the Society of American Foresters in 1900 and his family also provided financial support for a forestry school at Yale University. Theodore Roosevelt announced him as the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service. He wanted to preserve wild places for people to enjoy but also wanted good management by the federal government until William H. Taft fired him in 1910.

Stephen T. Mather owned a mining company and was also a conservationist. He was concerned about the funds being used to protect National Parks and Forests, so he helped convince Congress to create the National Park Service. He helped run them and he believed once people seen these parks they would support them more.

Ben Clark was different, he wanted to work with Biodiversity. He believed it would improve the quality of human life. If more youth got involved, they are the next generation so they could be the generation of great conservatives. Then we could control the things we are doing and better improve the land we live on.

Organization	Content Development	Conventions
2 (low)	2 (low)	2

Notes

- **Organization**—controlling idea somewhat sustained; few or no transitional strategies; weak introduction; missing conclusion; little evidence of blending
- **Development**—support for controlling idea is integrated very little with original thought/reasoning; writing relies a lot on summarizing the first passage; no citation
- **Conventions**—enough correct use of conventions to outweigh the spelling errors scattered throughout (a couple spelling errors appear to be typos, which are not counted against the student in scoring)

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Sample 5

These two passages are telling about these men. One tells about Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, and Stephan T. Mather. The first passage is “The Fouonsation Builders” It tells that these men used their positions in the federal government to have a lasting impact on preservation and conservation.

In 1901, Theodore Roosevelt, age 42 became the youngest U.S. President. His energy and determination powers the office. Roosevelt suggested important legislation and singed landmaek laws that protected the health and welfare of Americans, and he established the United States as an emerging leadin in the foreign affairs.

(1865-1946) Gifford Pinchot was a friend and trusted advisor to Theodore Roosevelt. He founded the Society and American Foresters in 1900. Roosevelt appointed Pinchot as the first cheif of the (U.S. Forest service. Pinchot supported conservation, but his ideas differed from those of other leading conservationists of the day. Pinchot searved as cheif of the Forest Service from 1905 until President William H. Taft firewd him in 1910 for publicly disagreeing with him.

(1867-1930) Stephan T. Mather bot hdid mining companies and a conservationist. In 1904 , Mather and a friend started a company to min and sell boreax, a cleaning chemical. The company was so successful that Mather was able to retire early. He tured his attention and energy to conservation. In 19015, he visisted Washington, D.C. he expressed concern about the random management to the various national parks.

the next passage is about Ben Clark. Through pouring rain in the redwood forest at Muir Woods National Monument, Ben clark, age 14, was grinning from ear to ear. He is participating in a predatory beetle inventory during 2014 National Park Service Geographic Society BioBlitz at hte parks geographivalls associated with Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Ben is a NPS Biodiversity Youth Ambassador. Initiated in 2010, the ambassador program has the mission of cultivating youth leadership that inspires next-generation environmental stewards in schools and communities.

In a few ways these passages are same. They both go for somthign and someone is running for something. In a lot of ways these passages are different. One has the president and all his friends and people he worked with. They worked in the National Forests and conservationists. In the other the ytalk about the young man who visits the Nation Forests.

Organization	Content Development	Conventions
2 (low)	1	1

Notes

- **Organization**—main idea (alluded to in closing paragraph) is insufficiently sustained; few or no transitional strategies; weak introduction and conclusion; uneven progression; no evidence of blending

- **Development**—minimal, irrelevant support for main idea; predominantly copied; limited vocabulary (due to excessive copying from sources); writing attempts to appeal to the audience; attempts to cite one source; limited use of available resources (not used to develop original thought)
- **Conventions**—errors in spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure

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Sample 6

Ben Clark and th Fondation Bilders are alike. They both focas on the Earth's nature and life.

Ben Clark however is a little bit differant he studies the creatures of nature.

Clark and the Foundation Bilders have simmular qualities. One of those wold be to make the future better for the Earth. They also study and observe nature and protect it.

If the Foundation Bildersdid not unite and use their power to protect nature. If this was not the case then Ben Clark would probley not bee elageble.

The Foundation Bilders and Clark are not so different because they both like nature and want to study it. They also want the future to be good for the Earth and the people. Last they are both trying to so whats right for them and for others.

Even though tey are different people these comparisens is what makes the bigger picture.

That being said these similarities is what makesliving on Earth and takeing care of nature much more worth it.

Organization	Content Development	Conventions
2	1	1

Notes

- **Organization**—weak introduction and conclusion; response is somewhat sustained, but uses inconsistent organizational structure; uneven progression of ideas; no evidence of blending genres
- **Development**—support is minimal; lacks awareness of audience; makes inadequate use of resources; no citations
- **Conventions**—short sample of writing with multiple spelling errors along with occasional punctuation and sentence structure errors

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Sample 7

Ben Clark and the foundation builders have a lot in common. At the same time they have some differences too. The foundation builders are Gifford Pinchot, Stephen T. Mather, and Theodore Roosevelt.

Some similarities are that they both try to perfect nature. Even though the foundation builders are a lot more influencing to society they both try to protect animal habitat. But Ben Clark is a lot younger than the foundation builders and when he gets a little older he might have the same if not more influence as the foundation builders.

The difference between these are that the foundation builders are trying to get national parks not some bioblitz stuff.

The foundation builders have some major differences compared to Ben Clark. But they also have similarities too. They are all good people trying to fight for what's right.

Organization	Content Development	Conventions
2	1	1

Notes

- **Organization**—weak introduction and conclusion; clear main idea and focus is mostly maintained; little transitional variety; little evidence of blending
- **Development**—minimal support for controlling idea; little use of details; limited vocabulary; attempts to appeal to audience; makes inadequate use of available resources; does not cite sources
- **Conventions**—multiple spelling, punctuation, and capitalization errors

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Sample 8

Ben Clark and The men in the Foundation builders are all similar, however Ben Clark and Theodore Roosevelt are more similar because they both liked biodiversity. also Roosevelt created the first national monuments. he also prepared to protect the grand canyon in 1908.

Organization	Content Development	Conventions
1	1	1

Notes

- **Organization**—lacks introduction and conclusion; ambiguous main idea; focus drifts; few transitional strategies; no evidence of blending
- **Development**—little of no use of facts and details; lacks awareness of audience; makes inadequate use of available resources; does not cite sources
- **Conventions**—multiple spelling, punctuation, and capitalization errors within a limited sample of writing; basically sound sentence structure keeps this writing sample from receiving a 0 for conventions